

LETTER FROM MR. GEDDIE.

Aneiteum, Nov. 18th, 1857.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—

I send these lines by a vessel which has called at this island on her way to China. I write rather to keep up correspondence than to communicate information. I have recently sent letters to you by way of Sydney to which I refer you for all information about the mission. The vessel which takes this letter has twenty-six Chinese passengers on board, to whom I have given portions of the New Testament in their own language for which they appear to be thankful. They are now returning home from the Australian gold diggings and are now mourning the loss of £13,000's worth of gold which they attempted to smuggle without paying the required duty and which was seized from them. I had a letter from Mr. Gordon lately. He and Mrs. Gordon were well when it was written. The sandalwood men and the natives of Erromanga have lately been quarrelling. The result has been the burning of a sandalwood establishment, and the shooting of some of the natives. As far as our information goes the white men seem to have originated these unhappy quarrels. But as the vessel which takes this will also call at Erromanga you will probably have full information from Mr. Gordon on the subject.

Our latest news from Tana is very favourable. I mentioned to you in my last letter of the burning of the teachers' house at Port Resolution. We sent off our chief Nahoat, who speaks the language and knows the people, to investigate the matter and report to us. He spent three weeks on Tana and returned a few days ago accompanied by some Tanese. The deed was done as is supposed by a heathen man living at some distance from the harbour. But the people among whom the teachers live, were so indignant that they burnt the principal house in the place, where the suspected man resides. We deeply regret such an act as this. The Tanese at present are anxious for more teachers, and we hope to send two married teachers next week in the *John Knox*.

The Bishop of New Zealand visited this island about three weeks ago, on his return from the northern islands. He has been absent from this island about three months, and touched at most of the islands between this and the Solomon group. He visited in all 66 islands and landed on 62 of them, and held friendly communication with the natives. He had on board of his schooner 33 natives, speaking ten different languages, whom he intends to take to Norfolk Island. The Bishop has kindly offered to give us every assistance in his power to extend our operations northward.

I send with this the first three Chapters of Revelation, which we have just printed. We do not intend to go further with this book at present. The Acts of the Apostles is now in press, and we have taken off the first sheet to-day.

Mrs. Geddie has not been very well lately, but is much better now. The other members of the mission are well. The summer rains have commenced, and the weather is very hot and oppressive. We hope to visit Mr. and Mrs. Inglis to-morrow. Mrs. Geddie unites in kind remembrance to Mrs. Bayne and yourself.

Ever yours, &c.,

J. GEDDIE.

LETTER FROM MR. GORDON.

ERROMANGA, Nov. 23rd, 1857.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—

As I have now an opportunity of sending letters to my friends by way of China, I feel constrained not to let it pass without sending you a few lines, although my present circumstances hardly permit of letter writing. An epitome of news is all you can now have.

You will be happy to learn that we are all in health and strength, working away, each one at his own proper work, like a busy gang of diggers, sowers and planters on a farm in the spring, and that the good things of God's providence towards us, are preponderating—as they generally do—far above the evil, so that we have more reason to sing than weep at our work, although the silent tear will sometimes steal over the cheek.

If I were to relate to you some of the bloody scenes which have taken place of late, on this island, effected both by foreigners, in revenge for some of their party,